

Serial No. 10/830,185**Art Unit: 1711****Remarks**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. The Patent Office has required Applicants to restrict this application to one of the following groups, pursuant to 35 USC §121.

- Group I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a surface coated Al/Zn steel sheet, classified in class 428, subclass, 425.8.
- Group II. Claims 10-16 drawn to a chromium-free surface treatment composition, classified in class 524, subclass 406+.
- Group III. Claims 17-19, drawn to another chromium-free surface treatment composition, classified in class 524, subclass 413.

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement. The Patent Office makes the restriction requirement on the basis that Groups I and II are related as combination and subcombination. The Patent Office indicates that Groups II and III are unrelated. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups II and III have a resin with acid amide groups and certain metals and silicon compounds in common and that examination of these groups together would not be an undue burden on the Office and would promote efficiency in prosecution. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction is respectfully requested.

As required by the Patent Office, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute Group III (three) as recited in the Official Action. Specifically, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute claims 17-19. If the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to withdraw the non-elected claims.

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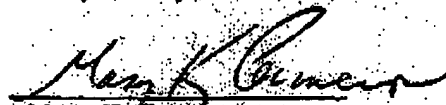
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Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration in view of the remarks contained herein. Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned

Respectfully submitted,



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